This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-53. (Canceled).

54. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an unknown party interacting with an intelligent agent, the method comprising, in a computer of the type including at least one processor, executing a program to perform the steps of:

(a) determining at least one attribute related to the unknown party, wherein the unknown party is a party other than a client that has delegated at least one task to the intelligent agent;

(b) comparing the attribute for the unknown party with attributes related to a plurality of known parties; and

(c) identifying the unknown party as the known party having the attribute which most closely matches that of the unknown party; wherein the determining step determines a plurality of attributes related to the unknown party, wherein the comparing step compares the plurality of attributes for the unknown party with those of the plurality of known parties, wherein the unknown party is an intelligent agent configured to conduct electronic transactions, and wherein the plurality of attributes is selected from the group consisting of an agent name, a client name, a bank name, a bank account number, a credit card number, a homebase location, an agent program name, a location or name of a source with which the unknown party communicates, and combinations thereof.

55. (Canceled).

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54 55, wherein the comparing step includes the step of accessing a database including a plurality of records, each record associated with a known party and including the plurality of attributes related thereto.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54 ~~55~~, wherein each of the plurality of attributes has a weighting factor associated therewith, wherein the comparing step calculates an accumulated weighting factor for each known party by summing the weighting factors of the attributes of the known party which match those of the unknown party, and wherein the identifying step identifies the unknown party as the known party with the largest accumulated weighting factor.

58. (Canceled).

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54 ~~55, wherein the unknown party is an intelligent agent, and~~ wherein the determining step includes the step of scanning program code for the unknown party to determine attributes thereof.

60. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for identifying an unknown party interacting with an intelligent agent, comprising:

at least one processor;

~~(a)~~ a database including a plurality of records, each record associated with a known party and including the plurality of attributes related thereto; and

~~(b)~~ an identification module, coupled to the database, the identification module comprising instructions configured upon execution by the at least one processor to compare a plurality of attributes for the unknown party with those of each known party and to identify the unknown party as the known party having the attributes which most closely match those of the unknown party, wherein the unknown party is a party other than a client that has delegated at least one task to the intelligent agent;

wherein the unknown party is an intelligent agent configured to conduct electronic transactions, and wherein the plurality of attributes are selected from the group consisting of an agent name, a client name, a bank name, a bank account number, a credit card number, a homebase location, an agent program name, a location or name of a source with which the unknown party communicates, and combinations thereof.

61. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising:

a recordable computer readable medium; and

~~(a)~~ a program stored on the recordable computer readable medium and configured upon execution to perform a method of identifying an unknown party interacting with an intelligent agent, the method comprising the steps of:

~~(1)~~ determining at least one attribute related to the unknown party, wherein the unknown party is a party other than a client that has delegated at least one task to the intelligent agent;

~~(2)~~ comparing the attribute for the unknown party with attributes related to a plurality of known parties; and

~~(3)~~ identifying the unknown party as the known party having the attribute which most closely matches that of the unknown party; ~~and~~

~~(b)   a signal bearing media bearing the program~~

wherein the unknown party is an intelligent agent configured to conduct electronic transactions, and wherein the plurality of attributes are selected from the group consisting of an agent name, a client name, a bank name, a bank account number, a credit card number, a homebase location, an agent program name, a location or name of a source with which the unknown party communicates, and combinations thereof.

62.-63. (Canceled).

64.-103. (Canceled).

104. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein each of the plurality of attributes has a weighting factor associated therewith.

105. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 104, wherein the identification module is configured to calculate an accumulated weighting factor for each known party by summing the weighting factors of the attributes of the known party which match those of the unknown party, and to identify the unknown party as the known party with the largest accumulated weighting factor.

106. (Canceled).

107. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 60, ~~wherein the unknown party is an intelligent agent, and~~ wherein the identification module is configured to scan program code for the unknown party to determine attributes thereof.

108. (Canceled).

109. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 61 ~~108~~, wherein the program is configured to access a database including a plurality of records, each record associated with a known party and including the plurality of attributes related thereto.

110. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 61 ~~108~~, wherein each of the plurality of attributes has a weighting factor associated therewith, wherein the program is configured to calculate an accumulated weighting factor for each known party by summing the weighting factors of the attributes of the known party which match those of the unknown party, and to identify the unknown party as the known party with the largest accumulated weighting factor.

111. (Canceled).

112. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 61 ~~108~~, ~~wherein the unknown party is an intelligent agent, and~~ wherein the program is configured to scan program code for the unknown party to determine attributes thereof.

113. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an unknown party interacting with a first intelligent agent, the method comprising, in a computer of the type including at least one processor, executing a program to perform the steps of:

(a) determining at least one attribute related to the unknown party, wherein the unknown party is a second intelligent agent interacting with the first intelligent agent;

(b) comparing the attribute for the unknown party with attributes related to a plurality of known parties; and

(c) identifying the unknown party as the known party having the attribute which most closely matches that of the unknown party; wherein the determining step determines a plurality of attributes related to the unknown party, wherein the comparing step compares the plurality of attributes for the unknown party with those of the plurality of known parties, wherein the unknown party is configured to conduct electronic transactions, and wherein the plurality of attributes is selected from the group consisting of an agent name, a client name, a bank name, a bank account number, a credit card number, a homebase location, an agent program name, a location or name of a source with which the unknown party communicates, and combinations thereof.

114. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying an unknown party interacting with an intelligent agent, the method comprising, in a computer of the type including at least one processor, executing a program to perform the steps of:

(a) determining at least one attribute related to the unknown party;

(b) comparing the attribute for the unknown party with attributes related to a plurality of known parties;

(c) identifying the unknown party as the known party having the attribute which most closely matches that of the unknown party; and

(d) controlling a behavior of the intelligent agent when interacting with the unknown party based upon the identification of the unknown party; wherein the determining step determines a plurality of attributes related to the unknown party, wherein the comparing step compares the plurality of attributes for the unknown party with those of the plurality of known parties, wherein the unknown party is an intelligent agent configured to conduct electronic transactions, and wherein the plurality of attributes is selected from the group consisting of an agent name, a client name, a bank name, a bank account number, a credit card number, a homebase location, an agent

program name, a location or name of a source with which the unknown party communicates, and combinations thereof.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, wherein controlling the behavior of the intelligent agent includes controlling a negotiation strategy used by the intelligent agent when conducting an electronic transaction with the unknown party.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim114, wherein identifying the unknown party includes identifying the unknown party as being untrustworthy, and wherein controlling the behavior of the intelligent agent includes modifying the behavior of the intelligent agent to account for increased risk posed by the unknown party and continuing to interact with the unknown party using the modified behavior.